



Happy New Year



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The Connecting Link

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, 8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, IL 60457
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JANUARY 2018

WORSHIP SERVICES AND SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENTS



9:00 A.M.	Adult Study all year round
10:00 A.M.	Worship with Youth Sunday School for ages 3 through high school
5:00 P.M.	REV Contemporary Worship Service

The Scripture readings shown below are ones that many churches across the world will focus on during these upcoming Sundays. You are invited to use them as passages of study in your personal devotional time.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 (Baptism of the Lord)

9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School followed by (Congregational Meeting to elect slate of officers follows 10 AM worship.)
Readings:	Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Christian Education (CE)
4:00 PM	REV Planning
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School
Readings:	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Outreach/Comm/Website
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)

9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School
Readings:	Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

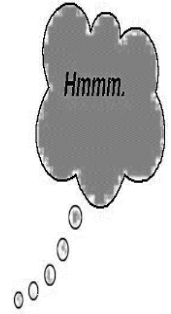
9:00 AM	Adult Class
10:00 AM	Worship and Youth Sunday School (Congregational meeting to review HHPC Annual Report follows 10 AM worship.)
Readings:	Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28
11:15 AM	Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions
5:00 PM	REV Worship Service



Look back
and thank God,
Look forward
and trust God.

If you or someone you love needs a hospital visit, please call the church office at 708-598-3100 and leave a message on the office mailbox. Due to federal privacy regulations, the hospitals never call the church, even if they ask for your church membership information.

Consider asking yourself these 10 questions at the start of this New Year.



1. What is one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
5. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
6. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
7. For whom will you pray most fervently for this year?
8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
10. What area of your life most needs simplifying, and what's one way you could simplify in that area?

Page 8 has been left blank for journaling your answers.



ONLINE PRAYER REQUESTS

You can now send prayer requests online through our new website at www.hickoryhillspres.org/prayer-request/

Requests made through this link will be sent to the church office who will forward it to Prayer and Care if designated as such.

Christian Education (CE) Updates

(by Linda Lavaretto)

We had a great turnout for the traditional **Christmas Party** on December 1. After a pot luck dinner with a variety of foods to choose from, everyone moved into the gym where eight different crafts were ready for them to create beautiful decorations and gifts for their personal use. There were close to 60 people in attendance. The children couldn't wait to create special gifts for their family. A great time was had by all. Then the activity everyone was waiting for--we made snowmen! Ice cream scoops, cookies, pretzels, and candy were provided for everyone to create a snowman. That was worth the wait. A delicious end to a great night. Thank you to Debbie Zimmerman and Mike Swearingen for putting up the tables and taking them down. Thank you to the ladies who manned the tables to lend a hand in the creation of the crafts. Thank you to Dianne for the gathering and purchasing of all the necessary items to create the crafts.

What a joy it was to see the littlest of our congregation tell the story of Christmas and help explain all the symbols of the **Advent Wreath!** We were educated on December 3 by the students and toddlers at the 10 o'clock service. After the service, during the fellowship hour, we did some crafting and decorated advent wreaths in the gym. Each family was given a wreath with candle holders and greenery as well as the 5 candles and a card with bible verses they could use to celebrate advent in their homes. They had many items to use as decorations. Thank you to the parents who took the time to have their children attend the service at 10 AM. Thank you to all the children who agreed to help tell the story to the congregation. Thank you to Dianne for organizing the event, purchasing the supplies for the wreaths, and making contact with the students to have each part covered. Thank you to Debbie Zimmerman and Mike Swearingen for setting up the gym and fellowship hall with the necessary tables and chairs.

December 10 was the date for the annual **Christmas Tea**. This event was started in 2000 and has been a tradition for our church for every year (except the one with the snowstorm when it had to be delayed a few weeks). There were close to 50 ladies in attendance. Members of the church invited friends and family for the afternoon of merriment, We had table games, tea, cookies, fellowship, and an afternoon filled with the music by Johnny Gray.

Thank you to Shirley Dragas for the beautiful baskets she created for the door prize raffle. It took several of the winners a long time to choose just one basket from the variety on display. Thank you to Ivy Taebel for finding such a merry way to be entertained. Thank you to Mike Swearingen for keeping the hot water coming. Thank you to Mike and Jean Swearingen and Debbie Zimmerman for the table set up and take down.

For your information (just in case you didn't hear), **the Kids' Club will not have meetings on December 25 or January 1. We resume regular meetings at 3:30 PM on January 8.**

There was a Christmas party held on Monday December 18. The students had a great time in the gym as usual playing their favorite games. They were treated to a great snack. They lit the Advent Wreath for the third and fourth candles and talked about the importance behind the birth of Christ. They were happy to leave with a gift from the Kids' Club staff.

Wishing you a great new year. Praying that one of your New Year's Resolutions is to join us during the programs offered to you through the church.



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!



FROM
THE
KIDS'
CLUB

If you are interested in helping or would like more information on Kids' Club, please contact Dianne Flynn at the church office at 708-598-3100.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

As I am writing this, the year 2017 is coming to a close here at Kids' Club. On December 18 we celebrated with a Christmas Party. All in attendance enjoyed games, the making of Christmas Cards for residents at Hickory Pavilion Nursing Home, and the discussion and lighting of the last Advent Candles during Christian Learning time. After our snack of pizza, all left with gifts.

Kids' Club will be closed for the holidays but will resume on Monday, January 8th.

STUDY TIME IN JANUARY

As we look ahead to the new year our learning time during the month of January will center around the following topics:

Loving Others

In Matthew 5:43-48, we are told to love our enemies.

Being Dependable

We will study Deborah (Judges 4:1-6).

Accepting Jesus as Savior – We will focus on Acts 9:1-22.

Going to Church – From Luke 2:40-52 we read about the boy Jesus at the Temple.

We wish you and your families a Blessed and Happy Holiday, and look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Reflections

I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world, but for those whom thou hast given me, for they are thine; all mine are thine, and thine are mine, and I am glorified in them.

(John 17:9-10 (RSV))

When Christ's intercessory prayer for the disciples was spoken, he lifted up his eyes to his Father. We know how important prayer is because Jesus prayed! When we stand before God with a willing heart, praying for one another during difficult times, he does his work. As we look forward to 2018, may our prayer life continue to increase since...

All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And my glory is shown through them. (John 17:10 (NCV))



Women's Bible Study "Sharing at the Table"

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory, he may grant you to be strengthened with might through his Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:14-19 (RSV))

As we continue to learn about the church during our study, did you realize the above verses are one sentence? Amazing!

We will begin our class on January 8, 2018, with the unity of the church. We have some extra chairs waiting for you to come and join us.

Won't you give us a try if you have the time open?

Women's Bible Study meets every Monday at 1:00 p.m. in the Knitting Room.

We Lift in Prayer

We pray for those in need of healing and those with health concerns:

Jerry & Joan Panko, Mary Orr, Francine, Shirley D's sister **Shirleen**, her friend's son **Brian**, her husband's cousin **Karen Kevin, Eleanor Watson, Jean Somerstorfer, Bob D, Sawyer, Lucy D & Tom, Barb M, Aunt Sherry, Don & Carol** (Ivy), Erik's son, **Dave & Dar, Leah** (Karen), Diane's great nephew **Colton, Cheryl H, Gail** (Ar), **Michelle** (Mel), **Stephanie** (Katie), **Jeni, Kyle W, Gracie & 3 gals** (Gerry), **Adeline, Sean, Jackie** (Ivy), **Jean** (Peggy's mom), **Aunt Jane & Bob, Jr.** (Gordon), **Adam** (from Faith United), **Joe** (Bernie's friend Martha's cousin), **Savannah**, Pam's daughter (Susan Herman)

We pray for those in need of strength:

Susan's cousin **Randy**, Donna's sister **Shirley, Billy**, Jeni's mom, **Wanda & Bob, Annette & Kristina** (Adeline), **Theresa** and her niece, **Beth, Aunt & Danny, Debbie Vaughn, Dave Johnsen, Rick & his dad, Dick, George** (Charley), **Rhiannon & Jim** (Charlie), **Betty** (Huenecke), **Corey & Jordan** (Grace), **Rachel** (Debbie Dennis), **Carol S.** (Ar)

We pray for those in need of strength and healing, or with health concerns:

Lori and her mom, **Judy**, the entire **Cassiello family**, Donna's friend **Ken**, Grace's relative **Edith, Laura A, Eva M**, Ar's brother **Richie** and brother-in-law **Howie** and sister **Gerry, Joann J, Ramon and Laura, Donna** (Karen), **Julie's brother** (Evelyn), **Uncle Tony** (Mary Ann), Brother-in-law **Bob** (Susan), **Ciaron Conway (REV), Kareem** (Laura V), **Alia** (Laura V), **Steven and Ted** (Grace), Bernie's daughter **Natalie, John** (Grace's son)

We pray for groups:

Israel; our children & youth ministry; Christians in the Middle East for strength & protection; people of other faiths; our country's divisions; policemen and firemen; persecuted Christians; our enemies; Syria; Las Vegas victims and those affected by the massacre; Iran-Iraq quakes; Washington train wreck

We also pray for those in need during miscellaneous circumstances:

Shirley D's friend **Pat Z, Karl Haack and Mark Gulotta** in the Marines in Okinawa, **Shannon** for peace & direction, **Jimmie & Jimmie's aunt** for comfort & strength, Laura V's friends **Debi & Chris** for direction, **Lauren** for seeing the light & strength, **Joe** for direction & strength, **Joe, Jen DelPrete** and family, **Gloria** (Laura V), **Rachel and Juan, Karen** for guidance and strength (Debbie), **Cassie** (Laura V), **Mike** (Roy's brother), **Dave & Debra, Gerry, Olivia, Holly, Megan** (Toni)

We pray for those who mourn: Family and friends of **Bernice**, Kim's and Sheryl's mom, who died.





**Saturday, January 6 –
Saturday, January 13, 2018**
Hurricane Relief Cleanup (An MC8 opportunity)
Rockport, Texas (Houston area)
Travel to Rockport to help cleanup or you can donate supplies to be taken there.
(For more information, call Dave Delaney and see bulletin.)

Sunday, January 7, 2018
After 10 AM Worship
Congregational Meeting
For the purpose of electing a slate of officers for 2020

January 13, 2018
Safe Gatherings Workshop
9:00 – 11:00 AM
Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
An MC8 meeting will follow workshop.

Sunday, January 28, 2018
After 10 AM Worship
Annual Congregational Meeting
Reviewing the HHPG Annual Report

**Wednesday, January 31 through
Saturday, February 3, 2018**
APCE (Louisville, KY)
January 6 – January 13





*We celebrate those who are
having birthdays in January
May God shower them
with blessings!*

January	1 Hunter Treccani
	1 Christopher Witek
	2 Jean Somerstorfer
	4 Stan Flynn
	7 Mackenzie Netter
	9 Loretta Koch
	10 Jacob Leake
	17 Sue Orsic
	20 Emily Raschke
	20 Jennifer DelPrete
	21 Andrew Witek
	21 Matthew Witek
	24 Bobby DeVries
	25 Gwen Lopinski
	29 Hailey Wreza

Please report any omissions or errors
on the birthday list to the church office.

Phone: 708-598-3100
E-mail: hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org



**If you have a change to your
personal contact information,
please call the church office
at 708-598-3100 or send an
e-mail to:**

hhpc@hickoryhillspres.org



A Prayer for a New Beginning in 2018

Lord,

At the beginning of this new year,
I offer you my life.

Come take **my voice**, may the words I speak
be filled with encouragement and goodness.

Come take **my hands**, may the work they do
be generous and giving.

Come take **my feet**, may the journeys
I walk be led by your Spirit within.

Come take **my life** Lord, for I love your
goodness, your kindness and your leading.
Amen.

My Answers to 10 Questions from p. 2

January 2018 Happy New Year!

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 Office Closed Women's Bible Study 1 PM Kids' Club 3:30 - 5 PM	2 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5 PM Worship & Music 7:00 PM	3 Office Closed Prayer & Care 9:30 AM	4 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5 PM TOPS 4 PM Yoga 7 PM	5 Office Closed	6 Hurricane Relief Cleanup (MC8) to Rockport, TX
7 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School Congregational Meeting to elect a slate of officers for 2020 (after 10 AM worship) 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & CE 4 PM REV Planning 5 PM REV	8 Office Closed Women's Bible Study 1 PM Kids' Club 3:30 - 5 PM 7 PM Arab Men's Prayer Group 7:30 PM Session	9 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5 PM	10 Office Closed Prayer & Care 9:30 AM	11 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5 PM TOPS 4 PM Yoga 7 PM	12 Office Closed Arab Women's Fellowship 4 - 6 PM	13 Safe Gatherings Workshop - HHPC 9:00-11 AM followed by MC8 meeting
14 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Outreach/Comm/Website 5 PM REV	15 Office Closed Women's Bible Study 1 PM Kids' Club 3:30 - 5 PM	16 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5 PM	17 Office Closed Prayer & Care 9:30 AM	18 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5 PM TOPS 4 PM Yoga 7 PM	19 Office Closed	20
21 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions 5 PM REV NEWSLETTER CONTENT DEADLINE	22 Office Closed Women's Bible Study 1 PM Kids' Club 3:30 - 5 PM 7 PM Arab Men's Prayer Group Deacons 7:30 PM	23 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5 PM Newsletter mailed	24 Office Closed Prayer & Care 9:30 AM	25 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5 PM TOPS 4 PM Yoga 7 PM	26 Office Closed Arab Women's Fellowship 4 - 6 PM	27
28 9 AM Adult Class 10 AM Worship & Youth Sunday School Annual Congregational Meeting to review HHPC Annual Report (after 10 AM worship) 11:15 AM Fellowship, Prayer Shawl Ministry & Missions 5 PM REV	29 Office Closed Women's Bible Study 1 PM Kids' Club 3:30 - 5 PM	30 Office Open 11:30 AM - 5 PM	31 Office Closed Prayer & Care 9:30 AM Jan. 31 - Feb 3, 2018 APCE (Louisville, Kentucky)	Office Open 11:30 AM - 5 PM TOPS 4 PM Yoga 7 PM	Office Closed	

NOTE: The most updated calendar of events at HHPC can be found on our new website at www.hickoryhills.pres.org/news-events/

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
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Here's the January 2018 issue of
"The Connecting Link"